

NSC BRIEFING

15 NOVEMBER 1955

FRENCH ELECTION SITUATION

I. Further complications expected today:

A. Upper house will probably reject govt proposal for electoral system.

B. This will rule out elections this year:

1. February then likely, although January date possible.

2. Further delay favors Mendes-France who needs time to consolidate support.

C. Faure govt in untenable position if it cannot force early dissolution of Assembly:

1. Anticipating early elections, it depended on Communist votes on election bill.

2. Govt so intent on immediate elections, it backed voting system most favorable to Communists when non-Communist parties could not reach compromise.

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NSC BRIEFING

15 NOVEMBER 1953

PHILIPPINES

- I. Last week's elections were a definite victory for Magsaysay and for his forthright pro-American policies.
- A. Recto, only candidate elected on opposition slate, came in sixth out of eight instead of first as some had feared; his chances for successful presidential bid in '57 severely dimmed.
- B. Nacionalistas also won all but a handful of 52 provincial governorships.
- II. While president's popularity reestablished, his reform program still faces rough going.
- A. Veteran Nacionalist Senator Jose Laurel, who is close to Recto, has announced he will lead senate opposition.
- B. Prospect is for some party realignments and reforms owing to ultra-conservatism of most Filipino politicians.

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